

MACOMB PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 8/19/2025

MINUTES:

Commissioners present: Neil Armstrong, Molly Selders, Cory Clem, John Hemingway & Phil Weiss

Staff: Chris Frankhauser, Blake Severs

Attorney: Emily Sutton

Media and others:1

1. 6:00 p.m.- President Armstrong declared the meeting open.
2. **Approval of the Agenda-** Commissioner Selders made a motion to approve the amended agenda and seconded by Commissioner Hemingway. Motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays).
3. **Consideration of and action on the minutes-** Commissioner Hemingway made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Clem seconded the motion. Motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays).
4. **Consideration of and action on the bills, transfers and monthly financial statements-** Commissioner Weiss gave a summary of the district's finances for the month of July. Weiss mentioned that the district received a \$17,232.08 PPRT check on July 10 and the previously mentioned first tax distribution of \$746,499.76 on July 15. Commissioner Selders moved to approve, and Commissioner Clem seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote (5 ayes, 0 nays).
5. **Open public presentation to Commissioners- None**
6. **Review of the 2024 annual audit-Sikich- with discussion and action possible-** Frankhauser reported that the audit was done. Frankhauser stated that commissioners should have received a final copy of the audit, and a management report this afternoon. Sikich will be working on getting the audit filed with the Comptroller's office and a copy filed to the county. Frankhauser reported that the delay since June was due to an attorney letter not being received that was sent out in January that a response was not received. Commissioner Hemingway asked if it was favorable and Frankhauser stated it was. The numbers presented in June were the same. Motion was made by Commissioner Clem to approve the 2024 audit and seconded by Commissioner Hemingway to approve. Motion passed on a roll call vote (5 ayes, 0 nays).
7. **Presentation and possible action on Resolution 25-4: Personal Property-** President Armstrong read aloud the resolution for declaring surplus old chain link fencing from the old Patton Park dog park. Commissioner Clem made a motion and Commissioner Weiss seconded the motion. Motion passed on a roll call vote (5 ayes, 0 nays).
8. **President's report-** Armstrong stated that he is glad that the audit is done. Armstrong said that council and commissioners will need to talk about the process going forward as an organization. Armstrong reported that he had several members of the community come up to him this summer and complement the district in all capacities. The effort was incredible and the product to the citizens was excellent. Armstrong thanked the commissioners for the extra time spent in meetings to find our next Executive Director. Armstrong stated he is proud to be a part of a team that puts the needs of the district first. Armstrong thanked Commissioner Hemingway for his work on the upcoming resolution honoring Valencia Pettigrew in September. Armstrong is excited to work with this team in the future.
9. **Business Manager report-** Frankhauser gave an update on the district's solar credits from the IRS. Frankhauser stated he heard back from Tri-Merit regarding the credits. The district is expected to get back

\$101,838 in tax credits back. The office will get \$54,337, \$34,989 for Lakeview and \$12,512 for Ball Fore. Frankhauser stated he is awaiting completion of the tax forms from Tri-Merit to review and sign. Frankhauser said the amount was a nice surprise.

**10. Announcement of New Executive Director-** Armstrong stated the board has reached a decision on the hiring of a new Executive Director. Armstrong introduced the 4<sup>th</sup> director in the district's history, Blake Severs. Armstrong said the district is excited to have him and looks forward to working with him

**11. New Executive Director report-** Severs reported that the Patton Park project is ending. Severs stated he has been in contact with former Executive Director Lenz. She will continue to help finalize things for submissions. Severs reported that the last item is to have the wetland signs placed. On August 11, district held registrations for the fall programming. That day saw over \$11,000 in registration fees! The next Movie in the Park is Friday, August 22-Inside Out 2. On August 30, district will be holding Nature Makers on August 30 at Lakeview Nature Center. Ball Fore will have a student day on August 23, half price activities for area students. Ball Fore will bring back Glow Golf will be held throughout the month of September. The construction of a new fence at the west end of Ball Fore is nearing completion. Severs updated the board on the hiring of Marketing and Support Services. The Marketing position job has been posted to the website for a while, and the Support Services will be posted this week. In cooperation with McDonough County ESDA, a weathervane will be installed at Veterans Park. This is a weather/lightning detection system that will have both audio and visual warnings of impending weather. The McDonough County ESDA will be paying for the subscription, all we need to do is install the device. President Armstrong stated he notice the LifeFlight has been using Veterans for operations He stated that when we can provide our community partners a place to practice life-saving skills and would like to see this continue.

**12. Election of Officer-Board Secretary and Assistant Board Secretary-** With the hiring of Severs as the New Executive Director, President Armstrong nominated Blake Severs as the Board Secretary and Commissioner Hemingway seconded the motion. Severs accepted the nomination. Motion passed on a roll call vote (5 ayes, 0 nays). Commissioner Weiss made a motion to appoint Business Manager Frankhauser as the Assistant Board Secretary and Commissioner Selders seconded the motion. Frankhauser accepted the nomination. Motin passed on a roll call vote (5 ayes, 0 nays).

**13. Open Commissioner presentation and discussion of future agenda items-** Commissioner Hemingway stated he has given a rough copy of the resolution honoring former commissioner Pettigrew and recommended this to be passed on the September agenda. Armstrong has spoken to the family and that meeting works with them. Armstrong has also requested a photo for the plaque.

6:28 PM Meeting adjourned on motion from Commissioner Clem, second by Commissioner Weiss. Motion passed unanimously 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Frankhauser, Interim Secretary  
Macomb Park District